

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297903

62

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USIA/IEU:JWSHIRLEY

USIA/IOA/ST:RHETZLEIN

----- 037093

P R 080059Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: HOPKINS/OBOLENSKY VISA SUPPORT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 18911; (B) STATE 288914

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA CONCUR THAT IF EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED HOPKINS VISA APPLICATION AS A USG OFFICIAL, THEN THAT IS THE PROCEDURE THAT SHOULD BE USED WITH OBOLENSKY'S (PARA 6 REF A). EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE PROCEED TO SUPPORT OBOLENSKY VISA REQUEST WITH MFA.

2. RE REF A PARA 2, SEE REF B FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR HOPKINS VISA. WE HAVE RAISED OBOLENSKY CASE SEVERAL TIMES WITH SOVEMBASSY COUNSELOR KAVALEROV. REPLY DEC. 6 FROM KAVALEROV WAS THAT SOVEMBASSY HAD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 297903

RECEIVED ANSWER FROM MOSCOW. HE SAID THEY WOULD SEND

ANOTHER QUERY ASKING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE. HE HAD STILL NOT HEARD FROM MOSCOW ON DECEMBER 7.

3. RE REF A, PARA 5, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT ROUTINELY SUPPORT VISA REQUESTS FOR JOURNALISTS OR OTHER NON-OFFICIAL AMCITS. WE DO, HOWEVER, SUPPORT SUCH REQUESTS

WITH SOVEMBASSY WHEN AMERICANS INVOLVED ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES AND ASK FOR OUR HELP. RECENT CASES WHICH COME TO MIND ARE NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT (FRIENDLY'S REPLACEMENT), SUZANNE MASSEY (WHO HAS STILL NOT BEEN ISSUED VISA), GROUP OF AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS (THREE AMERICAN RABBIS DENIED VISAS), JOSHUA FISHMAN (WHO WISHED TO TRAVEL ON CITIZEN EXCHANGE CORPS PROGRAM), DAVID FIELDS (AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL WHO WAS DENIED VISA RECENTLY).

4. AS EMBASSY POINTED OUT, THE LONG-TERM QUESTION REMAINS OF HOW VOA CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD APPLY FOR SOVIET VISAS AND WHAT PROCEDURES SHOULD BE USED IN SUPPORT.

5. FILES ON HOPKINS APPLICATIONS OVER THE YEARS ARE INCOMPLETE BUT DOCUMENTS DATING BACK TO 1971 INDICATE THAT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE HAS CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES. INITIALLY HOPKINS WAS STATIONED IN BELGRADE, AND ALL HIS APPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET VISAS WERE MADE THROUGH WASHINGTON. AUTHORIZATION WAS CABLED TO SOVIET EMBASSY BELGRADE. HE WAS LISTED (VARIOUSLY AS A QUOTE RADIO CORRESPONDENT OF USIA UNQUOTE, QUOTE RADIO CORRESPONDENT OF THE USG UNQUOTE, AND THEN LATER QUOTE VOA CORRESPONDENT UNQUOTE. THE PURPOSE OF TRAVEL WAS LISTED AS QUOTE TO COVER (DESIGNATED) EVENT UNQUOTE, BUT THE COVERING MEMO THAT WENT WITH THE APPLICATION SAID QUOTE PROCEEDING FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY MOSCOW AND TO COVER SUCH-AND-SUCH AN EVENT AND EVENTS OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST UNQUOTE. WHATEVER THE WORDING OF THE APPLICATION, THE VISA WAS ISSUED TO HOPKINS AS QUOTE EMPLOYEE OF USIA UNQUOTE. PRESUMABLY EMBASSY MOSCOW SUPPORTED HIS APPLICATION AS A USG OFFICIAL.

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PAGE 03 STATE 297903

6. FILES ARE INCOMPLETE ON PERIOD WHEN HOPKINS MOVED TO MUNICH AND BEGAN APPLYING FOR VISA AT SOVIET EMBASSY BONN, BUT APPARENTLY ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE INFORMED US THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER PROCESS HOPKINS' VISAS HERE AND CABLE AUTHORIZATION ELSEWHERE. HE WOULD HAVE TO APPLY LOCALLY. THE SHIFT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY, WITH SAME FORMULA AS ABOVE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF QUOTE TDY TO EMBASSY UNQUOTE OR

QUOTE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY UNQUOTE.  
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE SOVIET REFUSAL TO GRANT  
HOPKINS A VISA TO COVER ARRIVAL FIRST US GRAIN-CARRYING  
CARGO SHIP, THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MAJOR  
PROBLEMS WITH THIS PROCEDURE UNTIL MAY 1976 WHEN HOPKINS  
WAS ISSUED A TOURIST VISA FOR FIRST TIME, AND THEN

CURRENT DIFFICULTIES ENSUED.

7. DEPARTMENT AND USIA HAVE AGREED THAT WHEN VOA  
CORRESPONDENTS APPLY FOR SOVIET VISAS, WHETHER IN US OR  
ELSEWHERE, THEY WILL GIVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON  
VISA APPLICATION: (1) OBJECT OF JOURNEY TO USSR--QUOTE  
FOR CONSULTATION AT US EMBASSY MOSCOW AND TO COVER EVENTS  
OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN CAPACITY AS CORRESPONDENT  
OF VOICE OF AMERICA UNQUOTE; (2) PROFESSION--QUOTE  
EMPLOYEE OF USIA UNQUOTE; (3) POSITION--QUOTE RADIO-  
JOURNALIST, VOICE OF AMERICA UNQUOTE.

8. EMBASSY MOSCOW WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT APPLICATIONS  
OF VOA CORRESPONDENTS AS USG OFFICIALS, AS NECESSARY.  
WHEN CORRESPONDENT APPLIES, EMBASSY SHOULD SUPPORT BOTH  
THROUGH MFA CONSULAR OR USA DIVISION AND MFA/PRESS  
SECTION TO PRECLUDE, IN SO FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE, BUCK  
PASSING MENTIONED PARA 4, REF. A.

9. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS OBJECTION, WE WILL PUT THIS INTO  
EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Draft Date:** 08 DEC 1976  
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**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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